

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

February 16, 2007

Dear Friends:

As we move through Black History Month, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of recent initiatives I have undertaken to honor prominent members of the community.



*Ileana  
commends  
Rosa Parks  
on her  
courage to  
fight for  
equal  
rights for  
all citizens*

**I cosponsored HR 18, a bill to establish a stamp commemorating Rosa Parks without the mandatory ten year waiting period required for most honorees.** Rosa Parks epitomized the struggle of everyday people trying to make a difference, as she took a stand against injustice and inequality. By establishing a stamp, we will allow generations of Americans to collect, commemorate, and communicate the story of Ms. Parks and her defiant act of courage.

I have also enclosed **a Statement of the Record that I submitted last month for the Honorable Athalie Range.** Ms. Range led the fight on behalf of our South Florida community **for equal rights as a civil rights advocate** and dedicated civil servant.

I am committed to continue to work in Congress to provide a better education for our children and help families struggling with today's high cost of living.

*Ileana meets  
with a  
Floridian  
House Page  
to discuss  
how our  
government  
operates*



**In order to combat rising cost in education, I voted in favor of HR 5, the College Student Relief Act.** This piece of legislation will **phase down subsidized loans for undergraduate students from 6.8 percent to 3.4 percent over a five year span.** Parents and students continue to face increasing

cost for higher education, and this bill will help **to make college more affordable and allow more students to receive a quality education.**

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*Ileana encourages students to continue their educational path to success*



I voted in favor of HR 2, the Minimum Wage Bill. This bill, once enacted, would increase the Federal minimum wage from \$5.15 per hour to \$7.25 over a 26 month period. This piece of legislation will help our working families and boost the income of our nation's hardest working employees.

Please remember that my office is open to all my constituents so that I can help you. My district office is located at:

8660 West Flagler Street  
Suite 131  
Miami, Florida 33144  
Office Phone - (305) 220-3281  
Office Fax – (305) 220-3291

As your representative in Washington D.C., I want to hear from you and what your top concerns are. I encourage you to please visit my website at [www.house.gov/ros-lehtinen](http://www.house.gov/ros-lehtinen) and click on the "Contact Information" link and send me an email from the Write Your Representative system. I look forward to hearing from you soon!



*Ileana discusses the tremendous work of Habitat for Humanity with local volunteers*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ileana".

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen  
Member of Congress



# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

## House of Representatives

The Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida  
Friday, January, 12, 2006

### HONORING ATHALIE RANGE

On Monday January 15<sup>th</sup>, Americans in my Congressional district of South Florida and across the nation will gather to celebrate the birth, the life, and most importantly, the dream of civil rights pioneer Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. While Dr. King's dream has yet to be fully realized, he reminds us that *"Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable...Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals."*

In reflecting upon the words of Martin Luther King Jr., I am reminded of the many members of the South Florida African-American community who led the struggle for equal rights, most notably the late Athalie Range—a civil rights advocate and dedicated civil servant.

As the president of the Liberty City Elementary PTA in 1953, Athalie Range launched an unprecedented fight against the dismal conditions and lack of resources available to students attending local segregated schools. Steadfast in her conviction, Athalie went before the all-white school board, demanded immediate improvements—and got them.

In 1966, Athalie became the first African-American to serve in the Miami Commission, where she fought to improve her community's local infrastructure, reduce crime and poverty, and expand local government services for minorities. In the 1970's Athalie continued to break ethnic barriers when she served as the head of the Florida Department of Community Affairs, and then appointed by President Jimmy Carter to serve on the National Railroad Passenger Corp.

Athalie also guided the careers of many prominent members of the South Florida African-American community including former Congresswoman Carrie Meek, with whom I had the pleasuring of serving with in the House of Representatives.

Athalie's passing this November was a tremendous loss to our community, a community she loved so much.

During her decades-long career, Athalie brought about tremendous and positive change, while opening doors for our community, and leading an example for others throughout the nation.

As Americans and citizens of humanity, we owe a debt of gratitude for leaders such as Athalie Range and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for their invaluable contributions to democracy, equality, and freedom.